

The Birthplace of Lincoln

No Other American Farm Save Mount Vernon Has Produced Such a Wonderful Crop of Patriotism

By HORATIO BLISS

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LINCOLN IN 1861. The latest, tallest, and most handsome man of his time, he was unable to make enough from the place to meet the taxes, just as the earliest one of record, a certain farmer-carpenter of the name of Thomas Lincoln, failed to get enough out of the barren acres to pay for them.

Yet this stony, unproductive spot of earth is now one of the world's shrines. On Feb. 12 presidents, governors, judges, cardinals and cabinet ministers foregather there to orate and dedicate these rocks and sterile soil patches to the people for all the days to come. On one of the hills a white memorial hall patterned after a Greek temple will likewise be consecrated and left as a Mecca for future generations. The temple incloses an old one room log cabin, with a stick chimney, one door, one window and no floor at all. In this cabin was born a man child whom the world has taken to its heart—Abraham Lincoln, war president and liberator, man of meekness and mercy, strange compound of sorrow



MRS. LINCOLN IN 1861.

and of laughter. He, the babe that came here of parents poor and almost illiterate, is the reason for the temple, for the crowds and for the oratory. He is likewise the reason for the nation existing at all in its present form. So these humble acres are not all unproductive, even though they cannot grow crops, for they brought forth a great soul to lead a people from bondage and to place before men's eyes a type of charity and forbearance that will make us all tenderer and better for having seen.

The Lincoln farm, after passing out of the ownership of Thomas Lincoln, belonged for many years to a family of the name of Creal, after which it was bought by a New York capitalist, a Mr. Dennett, who made some improvements on it with the idea of changing it into a national park. This was abandoned, however, because of business reverses. The farm became tied up in the litigation of the Dennett estate and for years was neglected. At last it was sold at public auction by the authorities of Larue county, Ky., when it was purchased by Richard Lloyd Jones as a representative of Robert J. Collier. A Lincoln farm association was formed, with Governor Folk of Missouri at its head and various distinguished men on its directorate. To this body Mr. Collier turned over the farm, popular subscriptions were raised, a memorial building was erected, and other improvements were made. As a result the Lincoln birthplace farm on Feb. 12 will be opened to the public as a national park. From a scenic aspect it is a beautiful spot. Near to the plaza fronting the memorial building is the famous rock spring, and not far distant is a picturesque creek, on the banks of which the boy Lincoln played.

In addition to the dedication of the farm, a statue of Lincoln will be unveiled in Hodgenville. More important still, it is now practically certain that some form of memorial will be erected at Washington, a step that should have been taken long ago.

Everything connected with Abraham Lincoln is held precious by the American people. His birthplace and his tomb, his acts and his words, the people with whom he associated, all are objects of a popular interest such as has been aroused by few men in the history of nations. Compared with Lincoln's simple greatness, most of the characters grouped around him suffer by contrast. This is true even of his family. For one I feel that justice

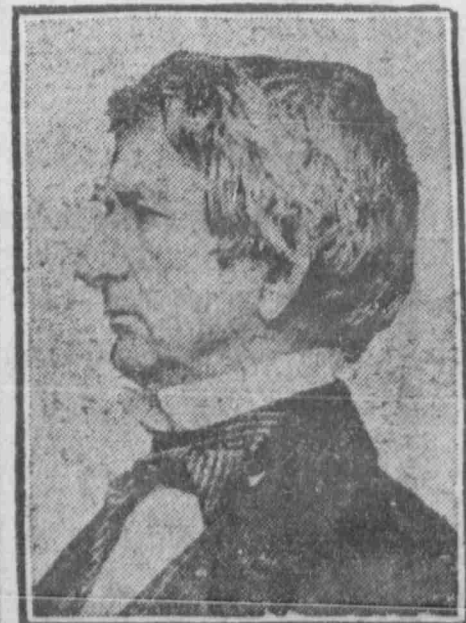
has never been done Mrs. Lincoln. She was not without a prophetic quality in divining her husband's future eminence, she had spiritual insight, she suffered many sorrows, and despite her difference from Mr. Lincoln in temperament and inherited manners and beliefs she was loyal to him throughout.

One other character has been minimized much in the same way—William H. Seward, Lincoln's chief competitor for the presidential nomination and afterward his secretary of state. One thing that can be said for Seward is that he was man enough to acknowledge Lincoln's greatness when he saw it. He refused to plot against his chief, as did some of his fellow members of the cabinet. He was a wise counselor and unselfish statesman. He had enough foresight to buy Alaska when the public scoffed at him for the act. The truth about Seward is that he was of a very high type, but notwithstanding his height was overshadowed.

Mr. Lincoln's life falls into two great divisions—that preceding the repeal of the Missouri compromise and the formation of the Republican party and that following these twin events. His one term in congress was the last important public service in the first period. Following this were five or six years of law with little or no politics. In congress Lincoln had gained a reputation as a story teller and wit, had made one or two campaign speeches, had introduced a measure to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia and had refused to say that the Mexican war was righteous. Following his term he had applied for the office of land commissioner, to which he had not been appointed, and had been offered the governorship of Oregon, which he declined. In 1850 he refused another nomination to congress and in 1852 delivered a eulogy on Henry Clay. It was in 1854 that he really re-entered politics, being stirred thereto by the repeal of the Missouri compromise. That year he was elected to the legislature, but refused to serve. He was also a candidate for United States senator, coming within a few votes of winning. With rare unselfishness he threw all his strength to Lyman Trumbull and elected him. For Lincoln to go to Trumbull, who had but a handful of supporters, was like the tail wagging the dog, but it prevented the election of a proslavery man.

In 1856 Mr. Lincoln participated in the formation of the Republican party, making his great "lost speech" at Bloomington. He also received 110 votes for vice president in the Republican national convention and ran for elector on the Fremont ticket. Two years later came his great debates with Douglas, which were held at Ottawa, Freeport, Jonesboro, Charleston, Galesburg, Quincy and Alton. As a result he had a popular majority, but was beaten by holdover senators and a gerrymander.

Following the struggle with Douglas Mr. Lincoln made speeches in Ohio, Kansas, New England and the famous address in Cooper Union, New York. Early in 1860 the Illinois state convention instructed for him for president, and in the national convention that met at Chicago, May 16-19, he was nominated on the third ballot. In the following campaign Mr. Lincoln remained at home and declined to make speeches. The Democratic party split on slavery, which made his election possible. Following the announcement of the result many of the southern states seceded, but the president-elect refused to be drawn into any public utterance as to his policy. On Feb. 11, 1861, he started to Washington, making a few short addresses on the way and secretly passing through Baltimore because of rumors of possible



WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

assassination. After his inauguration his history became that of the country in her most gigantic struggle. The so preme events of his administration as they affect his fame were the issuance of the emancipation proclamation on Sept. 22, 1862, and its official proclamation on the 1st of January following; Vicksburg and Gettysburg on July 1-4, 1863; the Gettysburg address on Nov. 19, 1863; the second election to the presidency and second inaugural, and the assassination on April 14, 1865, five days after Appomattox.

An Appreciation of Lincoln

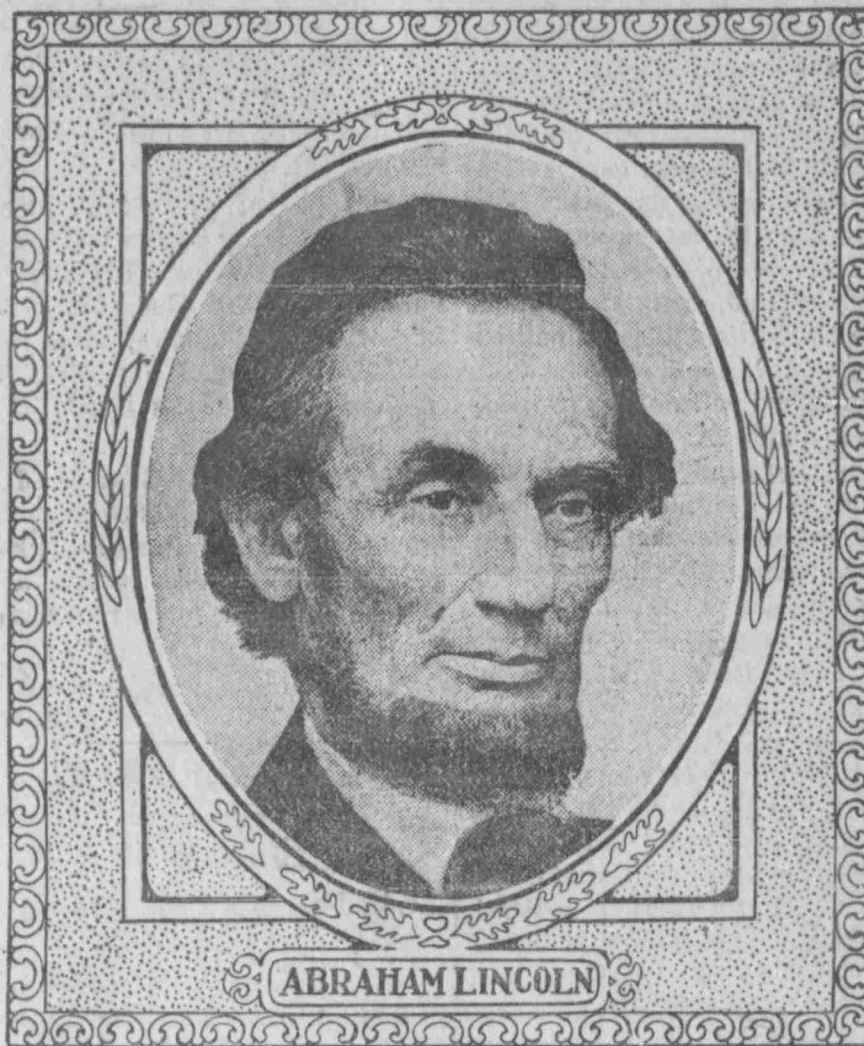
By Robertus Love

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SOMEWHAT down thar round Hodgenville, Kaintucky, Or tharabouts, a hundred year ago, Was born a boy ye wouldn' thought was lucky; Looked like he never wouldn' have a show. But * * * I don' know. That boy was started middlin' well, I'm thinkin'. His name? W'y, it was Abraham—Abe Lincoln.

PORE whites his folks was? Yes, as pore as any. Them pioneers, they wa'n't no plutocrats; Belonged right down among the humble many, And no more property than dogs or cats. But * * * maybe that's As good a way as any for a startin'. Abe Lincoln, he riz middlin' high, for sartin'!

SOMEHOW I've always had a sort o' sneakin' Idee that peddygrees is purty much Like monkeys' tails—so long they're apt to weaken The yap that drags 'em round. No use for such! But * * * beats the Dutch How now and then a lad like Little Aby Grows up a president—or guv'nor, maybe.



ABE LINCOLN never had no reg'lar schoolin'; He never quarterbacked nor pulled stroke oar, Nor never spent his time and money foolin' With buried langwidges and ancient lore. But * * * Abe I'arned more To set him forer in the human flin' Than all the college fellers' kit and bilin'.

ABE LINCOLN never did git hifalutin— Not even thar in Washin'ton, D. C. He jist kep' common, humble, ord'n'ry, suitin' His backwoods corn patch raisin' to a T. But * * * jiminy gee! W'y, Abe was any statesman's peer and ekul And wise as Solomon or old Ezekul.

I RECKON I'm a bit old fashioned, maybe, But when I want a pattern for a man I'm middlin' shore to measure Father Aby And out to fit his homely human plan. And long 's I can I'm hootin' loud and rootin' proud, by hucky, For that old boy from Hodgenville, Kaintucky!

The Gettysburg Address

Remarks at the Dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, November 19, 1863.

FOURSCORE and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow, this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

The Lincoln Centenary

Many Rare Geniuses Were Born In 1809, and Abraham Lincoln Was Greatest of Them All

By EUGENE FERRIS

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J. WILKES BOOTH.

THE list of the world's great men born in 1809 and whose centenaries will therefore be celebrated during the present year is surprisingly large. The number reaches into the scores. Chief among the poets were Tennyson, Poe, Holmes, Fitzgerald and Lord Houghton. Of musicians there were Chopin and Mendelssohn; of scientists, Darwin and many lesser lights; of fighters, Admiral Dahlgren, Kit Carson, Marshal Canrobert; of statesmen, Gladstone, Hannibal Hamlin and Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln and Darwin, perhaps the most celebrated of the list, were born on the same day. One abolished chattel slavery, preserved the world's greatest republic and set democratic government a long step forward; the other revolutionized science and wrote the word "evolution" into the language and thoughts of men.

Lincoln's fame has grown with every hour since his death and is yet growing. His hold on the hearts of men comes not alone from his acts. These but brought him into the public eye. It was the sweetness of his character, his mercy and simplicity, his loyalty to truth, his homely common sense, his literary quality and his perfect democracy that have given him second, if not first, place among the great men of his own land and won him the affection of all lands.

The centenary of his birth, on Feb. 12, will be celebrated as has been that of no other American. On the birthplace farm in Kentucky a memorial building will be dedicated, speeches being delivered by President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Luke E. Wright, Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Cardinal Gibbons and Governors Folk of Missouri and Willson of Kentucky. The address of President Roosevelt, while short, will be, it is believed, one of his most ambitious efforts. It will constitute practically his last important utterance as president, and he designs to place it as nearly in the class with Lincoln's Gettysburg address as he is able. The memorial building itself is small and of simple but classic design. Surrounded by Greek pillars and approached by broad flights of steps, it makes a striking appearance on the humble Kentucky farm. It completely surrounds and incloses the little log cabin in which Lincoln was born, which after its wanderings has been re-erected on its original site. At the foot of the steps are a broad sward and driveway, with a flagstaff in the center. Near by is the rock spring which was famous even in Lincoln's day. All of this, with the remainder of the farm, which will be left much as it was before, is to be thrown open to the public as a national park on Feb. 12.

The Lincoln centenary will also be elaborately celebrated at the tomb of the martyr president and his former home in Springfield, at most of the large cities and in the churches and elsewhere all over the United States and in some form throughout the world.

Two men whose lines of fate crossed those of Abraham Lincoln in a strange and one of them in a sinister way were Stephen A. Douglas and John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln and Douglas were lifelong political foes, rivals for the hand of the same girl, rivals for the senatorship, rivals in debate and rivals for the presidency. Lincoln won in every case, except in



STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.

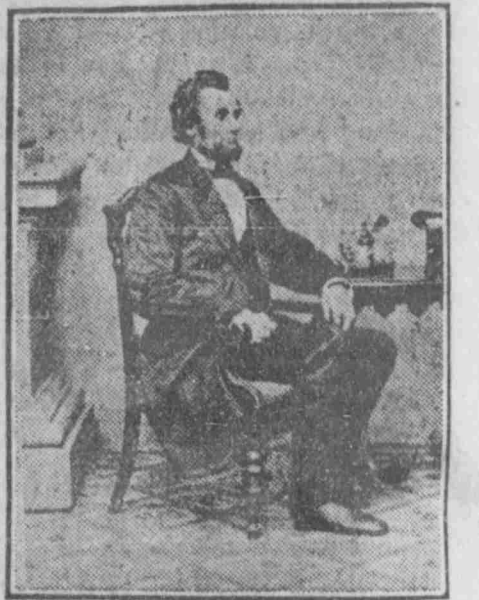
the empty honor of the formal election to the senatorship. Even there he had the popular majority, and the moral effect of victory. Yet oddly enough, it was Douglas who, fifty years ago, first gave Lincoln his opportunity to achieve national fame. The debates between the two giants were the most celebrated in American political history. They made Mr. Lincoln the presidential candidate in 1860.

and indirectly contributed to the splitting of the Democratic party, the deciding of the election. Oddly also, the two men were personal friends, and in the test of war Judge Douglas came valiantly to President Lincoln's support.

As for Booth, his motive in slaying Lincoln has always been something of a mystery. That there was a conspiracy and that he entered into it there seems little doubt, but his reason for the step has never been made clear. Whether he had a private grievance, acted through sentimental sympathy with the south or simply was crazed by the great events of the period is yet a matter of controversy, and doubtless will always remain so. Considering his talents and brilliant family connections, the last supposition is the probable and certainly the charitable one.

Lincoln said that his early life might be described in a line from Gray, "The short and simple annals of the poor." He came of English Quakers. His parents, while of good family, belonged to the frontier, had little or no education and no money. The son was never burdened with these things himself. His schooling altogether did not amount to a year. Yet he taught himself, reading omnivorously such books as he could procure. Fortunately these were the best—the Bible, Shakespeare, Aesop, "Pilgrim's Progress," Thomas Paine, Robert Burns and the lives of Washington and Clay.

In 1816 the Lincolns left Kentucky for Indiana, and two years later the mother died. It was a time of intense misery and saddened the boy's life.



LINCOLN IN 1861.

"All that I am, all that I hope to be, I owe to my angel mother," he afterward exclaimed. In a year Thomas Lincoln married a second time, and the stepmother came as near supplying the vacant place in young Abraham's heart and life as any other being could have done. For the boy the stay in Indiana consisted chiefly of hard farm work, with one flatboat trip down the Mississippi near its end.

Following his pioneer instincts, Tom Lincoln in 1830 moved to Illinois. That winter Abraham, now "his own man," split rails and started out in the world for himself. The next year he took a second flatboat trip to New Orleans and returned to clerk in a grocery at New Salem. In 1832 he served as a captain in the Black Hawk war and ran for the legislature, but was defeated. In 1833 he started in the grocery business for himself, but his partner ran off, poor Lincoln failed, and it took him years to pay the debt.

Lincoln tried for the legislature a second time in 1834 and was elected, remaining in the house eight years, a part of which time he was minority leader. His chief acts as a legislator were his advocacy of internal improvements, his protest against slavery and his leadership of the fight to remove the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield.

Other events occurring contemporaneously with this legislative experience were briefly as follows: In 1834 and 1835 he acted as deputy mayor and studied law. In August, 1835, Ann Rutledge died, throwing Lincoln into indescribable gloom. In 1836 he was admitted to the bar, forming a partnership with John T. Stuart. In 1840 he was an elector on the Harrison ticket. In 1841 he formed a partnership with Judge Stephen T. Logan, and on Nov. 4, 1842, he was married to Miss Mary Todd of Kentucky.

At the end of his legislative career Mr. Lincoln in 1843 formed his final law partnership, that with William H. Herndon, which lasted to the end of his life. In 1844 he was an elector on the Clay ticket and in 1846 was elected to congress, which was, properly speaking, the beginning of his national career, although his real advent as a national figure did not come until a decade after his one term in congress was finished.

Lincoln's Modesty.

In 1859, when his name was being mentioned as a prospective candidate for president, Abraham Lincoln wrote to an editor who had suggested the advisability of announcing his name, "I must in all candor say that I do not think myself fit for the presidency."